

IN THE CLAIMS

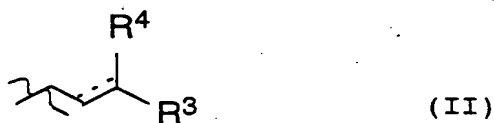
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing an acetylene alcohol ~~alcohols~~
of the general formula I:



wherein ~~where~~

R¹ and R² may be the same or different, and are each independently a saturated or a mono- or polyunsaturated C₁-C₃₀-alkyl, aryl, cycloalkylalkyl or cycloalkyl radical, each of which may optionally be substituted, or a group of the general formula (II):



wherein ~~where~~

R³ and R⁴ may be the same or different, and are each independently hydrogen or a saturated or a mono- or polyunsaturated C₁-C₃₀-alkyl, aryl, cycloalkylalkyl or cycloalkyl radical, each of which may optionally be substituted, and the dashed line may represent an additional double bond,

said process comprising ~~by~~ monoethynylating a ketone of the general formula

R¹-CO-R² by

(a) reacting lithium with a C₁-C₁₀-alkyl halide

- (b) feeding in acetylene gas
- (c) adding the ketone.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction of lithium with the C₁-C₁₀-alkyl halide is carried out in the presence of catalytic amounts of naphthalene or 4,4'-di-tert-butylbiphenyl.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the ketone ~~used~~ is selected from the group consisting of acetone, methyl vinyl ketone, β -ionone, tetrahydrogeranylacetone, 6-methylheptanone, hexahydrofarnesylacetone, diethyl ketone, methyl ethyl ketone, cyclohexanone, methyl t-butyl ketone, pseudoionone, methylhexenone and H-geranylacetone.

Claim 4 (New): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ketone is selected from the group consisting of acetone, methyl vinyl ketone, β -ionone, tetrahydrogeranylacetone, 6-methylheptanone, hexahydrofarnesylacetone, diethyl ketone, methyl ethyl ketone, cyclohexanone, methyl t-butyl ketone, pseudoionone, methylhexenone and H-geranylacetone.